

REMARKS

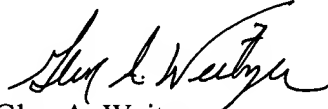
Applicants cancel claim 23, amend claim 15, and add claim 34 such that claims 1-3, 5-22, and 24-34 are pending in this application. Applicants initially note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 1-3, 5-14, and 29-33.

Applicants also note with appreciation that the Examiner has identified allowable subject matter in claims 16, 18-20, and 23. In light of this, Applicants rewrite objected-to claim 16 as newly added independent claim 34 and rewrite objected-to claim 23 as newly amended independent claim 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 34 are allowable. Claims 16-22 and 24-28 depend from allowable independent claim 15 and are therefore also allowable for these and other reasons.

Applicants submit that the present amendments have made the Examiner's rejections mute, and therefore Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1-3, 5-22, and 24-34.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney should the Examiner determine that such action would facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Glen A. Weitzer
Reg. No. 48,337

Docket No.: 18470-9058-00
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108

(414) 271-6560

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